

Who We Are

The Center for Dispute Settlement is a not-for-profit organization founded in 1973 by the American Arbitration Association. We offer an alternative to the court system by providing a forum for peaceful resolution to everyday conflicts with fact-finding, negotiation, mediation, arbitration, conciliation, and training.

We have trained and certified thousands of community members to serve as impartial third parties. We bring people together to help settle their differences peacefully, fairly, and confidentially. All parties in a dispute can work to create a solution they can live with and possibly avoid the need to go to court.



CENTER FOR DISPUTE
SETTLEMENT
peace it together

When making referrals or for more information, CONTACT your local office...

MONROE COUNTY Custody and Visitation Mediation Program

Main Office

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Custody and Visitation Mediation Program

An Alternative
to Court



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Conflict in families is natural.
How conflict gets resolved
makes all the difference.

What is custody and visitation mediation?

It is a private, confidential meeting where you and the other parent can discuss issues around your child, or children's, custody and visitation, with the assistance of a trained, third party neutral, a mediator. The goal is to help parents communicate and make decisions with their children's best interests in mind. A mediator **does not** decide who is right or wrong, counsel people as to what they should do, or give legal advice.

Why should I participate in mediation?

In mediation parents:

- Make the decision about what is best for their child(ren).
- Can communicate freely and openly
- Are free to discuss and resolve any issue regarding their child(ren).
- Attend sessions that are informal and scheduled at convenient times.

What can we talk about during mediation?

Issues discussed often include:

- Decision-making
- Residence
- Parenting Schedules (visitation)
- House rules
- Medical and other health needs
- Extracurricular activities
- Child care responsibilities
- Educational needs
- Visitation with extended family
- Religious observance.

The mediator will support you in crafting an agreement to be sent to Family Court.



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What happens after mediation?

Written agreements created within mediation can be sent to the appropriate Family Court for review and approval. If approved, it becomes a court order.

If no agreement is reached, you may continue through the court process to resolve your dispute. However, you and the other parent are always free to return to mediation later in the court process if you wish.

How much will this cost?

If you have been referred for mediation by Family Court, the Court has paid an administrative fee that covers our services. This is a one-time fee, regardless of the number of sessions attended for your present issue.